

OLD BUSINESS: I want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, and letters of support during my recent heart surgery and recuperation. Most of all, I want to publicly thank and praise my staff for the professional way they carried out their duties and responsibilities during my absence. I am very proud of them, and I am very fortunate to be working with such a fine group of people.

'Greatest Show on Earth' in Orlando marks end of an era

In our industry, it is sometimes very difficult to assemble and retain a staff of dedicated, professional, and loyal employees. If a club wants to have a first-class, efficient operation, it must make the commitment to provide good training and competitive wages and benefits. Combine those factors with a management style that includes communication, consistency, and caring, and you will create a winning team.

NEW BUSINESS: "The Greatest Show on Earth" is coming our way, and it will be in Orlando Feb. 19-26. That's the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. There will be 38 seminars and educational sessions, and 337,000 square feet of exhibits showcasing the latest in golf course equipment and products. This show has grown to become a member of the top 100 trade shows in America, and only because of the recent expansion of the Orange County Convention Center is it able to come to Florida.

Because we are hosting the conference this year, Florida superintendents who join the GCSAA before the conference will have their registration fees waived.

That's a saving of \$165 at the door.

Certainly all current GCSAA members who have been unable to travel to Phoenix, Houston or Anaheim the last three years should take advantage of this opportunity and attend this year. You can be sure that the rising number of certified superintendents will be on hand to earn continuing education credits to qualify for re-certification.

For those who are not members of either your local superintendent association or the GCSAA, now is the ideal time for you and your club to make a commitment to excellence by becoming a full partner in the golf industry. The education, information, and support you receive by being an active member is well worth the investment. And more importantly, your support is needed to help the golf industry build and maintain environmentally sound golf courses. As partners working together to support turf research, we can achieve that goal.

THIS ISSUE officially marks the retirement of Dan and Irene Jones as editor and assistant editor of The Florida Green. Words become very inadequate when you try to express the admiration and gratitude that over 600 superintendents in this association have for Dan and Irene. The dedication and hard work that they have invested in over 16 years of service to the FGCSA can never be repaid materially. But Dan and Irene, if you can measure the love and respect we have for you and what you have done for us, you will be wealthy for the rest of your lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

While Dan will shed the responsibility of producing the magazine, he will continue to contribute to The Florida Green as a writer and consultant.



Joel D. Jackson
Joel D. Jackson, CGCS